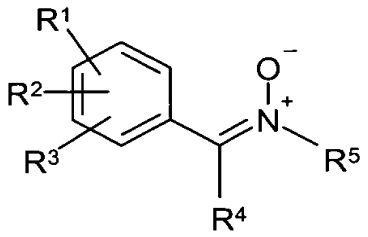
acceptable carrier and an effective neurodegenerative disease-cause ameliorating amount of a compound of formula I:



I

wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, alkaryloxy, alkcycloalkoxy, aryloxy, and cycloalkoxy;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkcycloalkoxy, cycloalkoxy and halogen, or when R^1 and R^2 are attached to adjacent carbon atoms, R^1 and R^2 may be joined together to form an alkylenedioxy group;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkcycloalkoxy, cycloalkoxy and halogen;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl having at least 3 carbon atoms, substitututed alkyl having at least 3 carbon atoms and cycloalkyl;

provided that:

(i) when R^2 and R^3 are independently hydrogen or methoxy, R^1 is not methoxy;

(ii) when R^2, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen and R^5 is *tert*-butyl, then R^1 is not 4-*n*-butoxy, 4-*n*-pentyloxy or 4-*n*-hexyloxy;

(iii) when R^2, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen and R^5 is isopropyl, then R^1 is not 4-ethoxy;

(iv) when R^1 and R^2 are joined together to form a 3,4-methylenedioxy group and R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, then R^5 is not isopropyl or *tert*-butyl;

(v) when R^2, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen and R^5 is 1-hydroxy-2-methylprop-2-yl, then R^1 is not 2-ethoxy;

(vi) when R^1 is 4-methoxy, R^2 is 3-ethoxy, and R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, then R^5 is not 2,2-dimethylbut-3-yl or 1-hydroxy-2-methylprop-2-yl; and

B1 cont

(vii) when R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen and R^5 is *tert*-butyl, then R^1 is not 4-methoxy when R^2 is 2-fluoro, and R^1 is not 2-methoxy when R^2 is 4-fluoro.

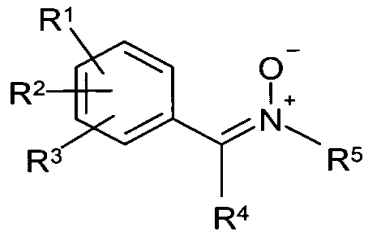
46. The method according to Claim 45 wherein the neurodegenerative disease is Alzheimer's disease.

47. The method according to Claim 45 wherein the neurodegenerative disease is Parkinson's disease.

48. The method according to Claim 45 wherein the neurodegenerative disease is HIV dementia.

B2

50. A method for ameliorating a cause of an autoimmune disease in a patient at risk for developing the autoimmune disease which method comprises administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an effective autoimmune disease-cause-ameliorating amount of a compound of formula I:



I

wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, alkaryloxy, alkcycloalkoxy, aryloxy, and cycloalkoxy;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkcycloalkoxy, cycloalkoxy and halogen, or when R^1 and R^2 are attached to adjacent carbon atoms, R^1 and R^2 may be joined together to form an alkylenedioxy group;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkcycloalkoxy, cycloalkoxy and halogen;

B2 cont.

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl having at least 3 carbon atoms, substitututed alkyl having at least 3 carbon atoms and cycloalkyl;

provided that:

(i) when R^2 and R^3 are independently hydrogen or methoxy, R^1 is not methoxy;

(ii) when R^2, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen and R^5 is *tert*-butyl, then R^1 is not 4-*n*-butoxy, 4-*n*-pentyloxy or 4-*n*-hexyloxy;

(iii) when R^2, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen and R^5 is isopropyl, then R^1 is not 4-ethoxy;

(iv) when R^1 and R^2 are joined together to form a 3,4-methylenedioxy group and R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, then R^5 is not isopropyl or *tert*-butyl;

(v) when R^2, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen and R^5 is 1-hydroxy-2-methylprop-2-yl, then R^1 is not 2-ethoxy;

(vi) when R^1 is 4-methoxy, R^2 is 3-ethoxy, and R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, then R^5 is not 2,2-dimethylbut-3-yl or 1-hydroxy-2-methylprop-2-yl; and

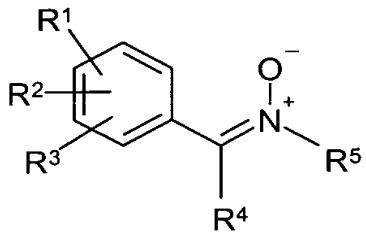
(vii) when R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen and R^5 is *tert*-butyl, then R^1 is not 4-methoxy when R^2 is 2-fluoro, and R^1 is not 2-methoxy when R^2 is 4-fluoro.

51. The method according to Claim 50 wherein the autoimmune disease is systemic lupus.

52. The method according to Claim 50 wherein the autoimmune disease is multiple sclerosis.

B3

54. A method for ameliorating a cause of an inflammatory disease in a patient at risk for developing the inflammatory disease which method comprises administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an effective inflammatory disease-cause=ameliorating amount of a compound of formula I:



I

wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, alkaryloxy, alkcycloalkoxy, aryloxy, and cycloalkoxy;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkcycloalkoxy, cycloalkoxy and halogen, or when R^1 and R^2 are attached to adjacent carbon atoms, R^1 and R^2 may be joined together to form an alkylenedioxy group;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkcycloalkoxy, cycloalkoxy and halogen;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl having at least 3 carbon atoms, substitututed alkyl having at least 3 carbon atoms and cycloalkyl;

provided that:

(i) when R^2 and R^3 are independently hydrogen or methoxy, R^1 is not methoxy;

(ii) when R^2, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen and R^5 is *tert*-butyl, then R^1 is not 4-*n*-butoxy, 4-*n*-pentyloxy or 4-*n*-hexyloxy;

(iii) when R^2, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen and R^5 is isopropyl, then R^1 is not 4-ethoxy;

(iv) when R^1 and R^2 are joined together to form a 3,4-methylenedioxy group and R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, then R^5 is not isopropyl or *tert*-butyl;

B3 cont.

(v) when R^2, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen and R^5 is 1-hydroxy-2-methylprop-2-yl, then R^1 is not 2-ethoxy;

(vi) when R^1 is 4-methoxy, R^2 is 3-ethoxy, and R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, then R^5 is not 2,2-dimethylbut-3-yl or 1-hydroxy-2-methylprop-2-yl; and

(vii) when R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen and R^5 is *tert*-butyl, then R^1 is not 4-methoxy when R^2 is 2-fluoro, and R^1 is not 2-methoxy when R^2 is 4-fluoro.

55. The method according to Claim 54 wherein the inflammatory disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

56. The method according to Claim 54 wherein the inflammatory disease is septic shock.

57. The method according to Claim 54 wherein the inflammatory disease is erythema nodosum leprosy.

58. The method according to Claim 54 wherein the inflammatory disease is septicemia.

59. The method according to Claim 54 wherein the inflammatory disease is uveitis.

60. The method according to Claim 54 wherein the inflammatory disease is adult respiratory distress syndrome.

61. The method according to Claim 54 wherein the inflammatory disease is inflammatory bowel disease.